

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A vehicle suspension system, comprising

a first shock absorber comprising a first main piston disposed therein, said first main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said first main piston is substantially retracted within said first shock absorber and an extended position wherein said first main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber;

a second shock absorber comprising a second main piston disposed therein, said second main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said second main piston is substantially retracted within said second shock absorber and an extended position wherein said second main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber;

wherein said first and second shock absorbers movably linked with one another whereby when said first main piston is moved toward said retracted position, said second main piston is caused to move toward said retracted position;

said first shock absorber is a hydraulic shock absorber defining a first hydraulic chamber therein, wherein a volume of said first hydraulic chamber is smaller when said first main piston is in said retracted position than when said first main piston is in said extended position;

said second shock absorber is a hydraulic shock absorber defining a second hydraulic chamber therein, wherein increasing a volume of said second hydraulic chamber causes said second main piston to move toward said retracted position; and

said second hydraulic chamber being in hydraulic communication with said first hydraulic chamber, wherein decreasing said volume of said first hydraulic chamber increases said volume of said second hydraulic chamber;

whereby when said first main piston is moved towards said retracted position, said volume of said first hydraulic chamber is decreased, whereby said volume of said second hydraulic chamber is increased, whereby said second main piston moves toward said retracted position.

13. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 12, wherein

said second shock absorber defines a third hydraulic chamber therein adjacent to said second hydraulic chamber, wherein increasing said volume of said second hydraulic chamber decreases a volume of said third hydraulic chamber.

14. (currently amended) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 12, further comprising

an adjustor comprising an adjustor piston disposed at least partially in said adjustor, said adjustor piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said adjustor piston is substantially retracted within said adjustor and an extended position wherein said adjustor piston is at least partially extended from said adjustor;

wherein moving said adjustor piston adjusts a neutral position of said second main piston.

15. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 14, wherein

said adjustor defines a fourth hydraulic chamber therein in fluid communication with said first and second hydraulic chambers such that changing a volume of said fourth hydraulic chamber changes at least one of said volumes of said first hydraulic chambers.

16. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 15, wherein
moving said adjustor piston toward said retracted position decreases a volume of said fourth hydraulic chamber; and

decreasing a volume of said fourth hydraulic chamber increases said volume of said second hydraulic chamber, such that said separator piston moves towards said second main piston, whereby said second main piston moves towards said retracted position thereof.

17. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 15, wherein

said adjustor defines a first pneumatic chamber therein adjacent to said fourth hydraulic chamber, such that increasing a volume of said first pneumatic chamber decreases a volume of said fourth hydraulic chamber; and

decreasing a volume of said fourth hydraulic chamber increases said volume of said first hydraulic chamber, such that said first main piston moves towards said extended position thereof, whereby said second main piston moves towards said retracted position thereof.

18. (currently amended) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 13, further comprising

a remote reservoir mechanism adapted to accommodate motions of said first and second main pistons, said remote reservoir mechanism comprising a remote reservoir piston at least partially disposed in said remote reservoir mechanism, said remote reservoir piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said remote reservoir piston is substantially retracted within said remote reservoir mechanism and an extended position wherein said remote reservoir piston is at least partially extended from said remote reservoir mechanism;

said remote reservoir mechanism defining a fifth hydraulic chamber therein in hydraulic communication with said third hydraulic chamber, such that decreasing said volume of said third hydraulic chamber increases a volume of said fifth hydraulic chamber;

said remote reservoir mechanism defining a pressure means chamber therein in communication with said fifth hydraulic chamber, such that increasing said volume of said fifth hydraulic chamber decreases a volume of said pressure means chamber.

19. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 13, wherein
said second hydraulic chamber defines central portion and a passage portion disposed peripherally to said central portion, said passage portion being in hydraulic communication with said first hydraulic chamber, said central portion being in hydraulic communication with said passage portion.
20. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 19, wherein
said passage portion comprises a plurality of tubes.
21. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 19, wherein
said passage portion comprises one tube.
22. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 20, wherein
said tubes are approximately .160 inches in diameter.
23. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 19, wherein
said passage portion comprises a cylindrical shell.
24. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 12, further comprising
a first hydraulic line connecting said first and second hydraulic chambers.

25. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 19, further comprising
a first hydraulic line connecting said first hydraulic chamber and said passage portion of
said second hydraulic chamber.
26. (currently amended) The vehicle suspension system according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 15, further
comprising
a second hydraulic line connecting said second and fourth hydraulic chambers.
27. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 18, further comprising
a third hydraulic line connecting said third and fifth hydraulic chambers.
28. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 14, wherein
said first, second, and fourth hydraulic chambers are substantially filled with a first
hydraulic fluid.
29. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 28, wherein
said first hydraulic fluid is synthetic hydraulic oil.
- 30-31. (canceled)
32. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 18, wherein
said third and fifth hydraulic chambers are substantially filled with a second hydraulic
fluid.
33. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 32, wherein

said second hydraulic fluid is synthetic hydraulic oil.

34-35. (canceled)

36. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 17, wherein said first pneumatic chamber is substantially filled with a first pneumatic fluid.

37. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 36, wherein said first pneumatic fluid is air.

38. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 18, wherein said pressure means chamber is substantially filled with a second pneumatic fluid.

39. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 38, wherein said second pneumatic fluid is compressed nitrogen.

40. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 38, wherein said second pneumatic fluid is compressed air.

41. (canceled)

42. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said first and second shock absorbers comprises at least one o-ring.

43. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 42, wherein
said at least one o-ring comprises at least one of the group consisting of nitrile and
fluoroelastomer.
44. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 15, wherein
said adjustor comprises at least one o-ring.
45. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 44, wherein
said at least one o-ring comprises at least one of the group consisting of nitrile and
fluoroelastomer.
46. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 18, wherein
said remote reservoir mechanism comprises at least one o-ring.
47. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 46, wherein
said at least one o-ring comprises at least one of the group consisting of nitrile and
fluoroelastomer.
48. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 12, further comprising
a restrictor between said first and second hydraulic chambers, said restrictor being
adapted to control fluid communication between said first and second hydraulic chambers.
49. (original) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 18, further comprising
a bleed-back valve between said third and fifth hydraulic chambers, said bleed-back
valve being adapted to control fluid communication between said third and fifth hydraulic
chambers.

50. (currently amended) A vehicle suspension system, comprising

a first hydraulic shock absorber comprising a first main piston at least partially disposed therein, said first main piston defining a first hydraulic chamber, said first main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said first main piston is substantially retracted within said first shock absorber to reduce a volume of said first hydraulic chamber, and an extended position wherein said first main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber to expand said volume of said first hydraulic chamber; and

a second hydraulic shock absorber comprising a second main piston disposed therein and a separator piston disposed therein, said second main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said second main piston is substantially retracted within said second shock absorber and an extended position wherein said second main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber, said separator piston being axially spaced apart from said second main piston and defining second and third hydraulic chambers within said second hydraulic shock absorber, said second main piston being positioned within said third hydraulic chamber, said second hydraulic chamber decreasing in volume and said third hydraulic chamber increasing in volume as said second main piston moves to said extended position, and said second hydraulic chamber increasing in volume and said third hydraulic chamber decreasing in volume as said second main piston moves to said extended position;

~~wherein said first and second shock absorbers~~ motively linked hydraulic chambers are in fluid communication with one another whereby when said first main piston is moved toward said retracted position, said second main piston is caused to move toward said retracted position; and wherein said second and third hydraulic chambers are isolated from each other.

~~said first and second shock absorbers are hydraulic shock absorbers;~~

~~said first main piston comprises a first damping valve, such that fluid within said first hydraulic shock absorber moves through said first damping valve as said first main piston moves between said extended and said retracted positions in such a fashion as to minimize cavitation of said fluid; and~~

~~said second main piston comprises a second damping valve, such that fluid within said second hydraulic shock absorber chamber moves through said second damping valve as said~~

~~second main piston moves between said extended and retracted positions in such a fashion as to minimize cavitation of said fluid.~~

51. (new). The system of claim 50, wherein said first main piston comprises a first damping valve, such that fluid within said first hydraulic shock absorber moves through said first damping valve as said first main piston moves between said extended and said retracted positions in such a fashion as to minimize cavitation of said fluid and said second main piston comprises a second damping valve, such that fluid within said second hydraulic chamber moves through said second damping valve as said second main piston moves between said extended and retracted positions in such a fashion as to minimize cavitation of said fluid.

52. (new) A vehicle suspension system, comprising:

a first hydraulic shock absorber comprising a first main piston at least partially disposed therein, said first main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said first main piston is substantially retracted within said first shock absorber and an extended position wherein said first main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber;

a second hydraulic shock absorber comprising a second main piston at least partially disposed therein, said second main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said second main piston is substantially retracted within said second shock absorber and an extended position wherein said second main piston is at least partially extended from said first shock absorber; and

an adjustor comprising an adjustor piston disposed at least partially in said adjustor, said adjustor piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein said adjustor piston is substantially retracted within said adjustor and an extended position wherein said adjustor piston is at least partially extended from said adjustor;

wherein said first and second shock absorbers are movably linked with one another whereby when said first main piston is moved toward said retracted position, said second main piston is caused to move toward said retracted position; and

wherein moving said adjustor piston adjusts a neutral position of said second main piston.

53. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 52, wherein said first and second main pistons are in phase, such that when said first main piston moves towards said retracted position, said second main piston moves towards said retracted position.
54. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 52, further comprising a remote reservoir mechanism adapted to accommodate motions of said first and second main pistons.
55. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 52, wherein said first and second shock absorbers comprise hydraulic fluid therein.
56. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 55, wherein said hydraulic fluid is synthetic hydraulic oil.
57. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 55, wherein said hydraulic fluid is a medium-weight hydraulic oil.
58. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 55, wherein said hydraulic fluid is a light-weight hydraulic oil.
59. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 55, wherein said vehicle suspension system is adapted to substantially avoid cavitation of said hydraulic fluid.
60. (new) The vehicle suspension system according to claim 55, wherein said vehicle suspension system is adapted to be operable during cavitation of said hydraulic fluid.
61. (new) A vehicle suspension system, comprising:
a first hydraulic shock absorber comprising a first main piston at least partially disposed therein, the first main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein the first main piston is substantially retracted within the first shock absorber and an extended position wherein the first main piston is at least partially extended from the first shock absorber, the first main

piston defining a first hydraulic chamber that decreases in size as the first main piston moves to the retracted position;

a second hydraulic shock absorber comprising a second main piston at least partially disposed therein, the second main piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein the second main piston is substantially retracted within the second shock absorber and an extended position wherein the second main piston is at least partially extended from the first shock absorber, the second main piston defining second and third hydraulic chambers within the second hydraulic shock absorber, the second hydraulic chamber decreasing in size and the third hydraulic chamber increasing in size as the second main piston moves to the retracted position, the first and second hydraulic chambers being in fluid communication with each other and the second and third hydraulic chambers being isolated from each other; and

a remote reservoir mechanism defining a reservoir hydraulic chamber, the reservoir hydraulic chamber being in fluid communication with the third hydraulic chamber only, the remote reservoir such that decreasing the volume of the third hydraulic chamber increases a volume of the fifth hydraulic chamber;

wherein the first and second shock absorbers are movably linked with one another whereby when the first main piston is moved toward the retracted position, the second main piston is caused to move toward the retracted position.

62. (new) The system of claim 61, wherein the remote reservoir mechanism comprises a remote reservoir piston at least partially disposed in the remote reservoir mechanism, the remote reservoir piston being moveable between a retracted position wherein the remote reservoir piston is substantially retracted within the remote reservoir mechanism and an extended position wherein the remote reservoir piston is at least partially extended from the remote reservoir mechanism.

63. (new) The system of claim 62, wherein the remote reservoir mechanism defines a pressure means chamber therein in communication with the reservoir hydraulic chamber, such that increasing a volume of the reservoir hydraulic chamber decreases a volume of the pressure means chamber.